

REMARKS

Applicant has amended claims 10 – 12 and 14 – 17, canceled claims 9 and 13, and added new claims 18 - 20. Thus, claims 10 – 12 and 14 – 20 are pending and presented for examination. Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and allowance of the pending claims in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks.

Response to Objection to the Drawings:

The Examiner objected to the drawings for not including every feature of the invention specified in the claims. Attached hereto is replacement drawing sheets 1 of 2 and 2 of 2 to replace original drawing sheets 1 of 2 and 2 of 2 and which include the chevron shaped rib illustrated in Figure 4, the apertures in or adjacent to each end wall illustrated in Figure 5, and symbol “S” illustrated in Figure 2. No new matter has been added. Applicant therefore respectfully requests withdrawal of the objection to the drawings.

Amendments to the Specification:

The Examiner has objected to the specification for including informal clerical errors. Applicant has amended the specification as suggested by Examiner. No new matter has been added. Applicant therefore respectfully requests withdrawal of the objection to the specification.

Response To Rejections Under Section 112:

The Examiner has rejected dependent claims 17 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, the Examiner contending that this claim is indefinite. Applicant has clarified the language of claim 17 to more particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which Applicant regards as the invention.

Request for allowance of claim 14:

Examiner indicated that dependent claim 14 contained allowable subject matter and would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Applicant has rewritten dependent claim 14 in such a manner and therefore respectfully requests allowance of claim 14 and claims 10 – 12 and 15 - 17 which depend from claim 14.

Discussion of New Claims 18 - 20:

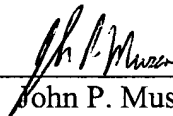
New claims 18 - 20 further define the scope of the invention, as described in the specification and drawings and are patentable based on their dependency from the independent claims as well as on their own merit. For example, claim 18 recites a chordwise extending discontinuous rib arranged an interior surface of a hollow aerofoil and that the first impingement tube portion and the second impingement tube portion extend spanwise through the hollow aerofoil and the first end opposes the second end with the first cross sectional shape and the second cross sectional shape being approximately the same and near the rib. In contrast, Japanese Patent 61-49,102 discloses a first impingement tube portion 2 and second impingement tube portion 4 with a chordwise continuous extending rib 3 (see Figure 2 of the specification). Also in contrast, European Patent 990,771 claims a first impingement tube portion 48 and a second impingement tube portion 48 with different cross sectional shapes at confronting ends (see e.g. Figure 2, items 32 and 46). Applicant's use of the chordwise extending discontinuous rib arranged an interior surface of a hollow aerofoil and use of the first impingement tube portion and the second impingement tube portion extend spanwise through the hollow aerofoil and the first end opposes the second end with the first cross sectional shape and the second cross sectional shape being approximately the same is not a matter of mere design choice but provides a predetermined flow of cooling air into the space between the ends of the impingement tube sections (see Applicant's specification paragraph 0024) and provides cooling air to cool the inner surface of the blade or vane near the mid-height region (see Applicant's specification paragraph 0009). Therefore, Applicant respectfully requests allowance of claims 18 – 20.

Conclusion

For the foregoing reasons, it is respectfully submitted that the rejections set forth in the outstanding Office Action are inapplicable to the present claims and specification. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider the rejections and timely pass the application to allowance. Please grant any extensions of time required to enter this paper. The commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any appropriate fees due in connection with this paper or credit any overpayments to Deposit Account No. 19-2179.

Respectfully submitted,

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